

LEADERSHIP AND UNDERSTANDING

- Use boys for control as much as possible. Get everybody used to the idea that they take their cues from boy leaders.
- Use the patrol leaders' council for serious infractions. They usually can decide how to handle a problem as well as or better than you. But they will need your guidance.
- Address them as "Scouts" rather than "boys." There's a difference, and they need to be reminded.
- Keep your voice down. Try to outshout them, and you will lose. Use silent signals. Avoid public discipline of individuals. They may welcome the attention they get, or they may be hurt by being made a spectacle. Talk to boys in private when there are problems.
- Give and demand respect for all leaders. Formality is in order for ceremonies and inspections. Don't keep boys standing in formation any longer than necessary and they will pay more attention to what leaders have to say.
- Treat boys equally. Any favoritism you show will be noticed.
- Avoid threats. They are easy to make when you are hot, but not so easy to carry out when you have cooled off. Beware of making threats that you don't intend to carry out.
- Don't be afraid to send home someone who is disrupting the program for others. Let him know he is welcome back when he is better able to cooperate. Call his parents and tell them why you sent him home.
- Recognize that every boy who does something disruptive is in some way trying to meet a need of his own: recognition, acceptance, or something else. Try to find better ways for boys to meet their needs.